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Mystery Inside CIA

Retired Vice Adm. William F. Rayborn, Jr., has been made head of Central Intelligence Agency by President Johnson. They are fellow Texans.

Adm. Rayborn follows John A. Mc-Cone, who followed Allen W. Dulles in 1961. Mr. Dulles was under fire for the CIA's botched role in the Cuban invasion fiasco. Mr. McCone never was under severe criticism, though his agency's role in the internal politics of South Vietnam was criticized severely.

It could become Adm. Rayborn's privilege to clear up a point about CIA operations, which have been creating mistrust at about the same rate as they have been producing information.

The point is whether development of a hush-hush intelligence agency may have created an army of government that cannot be held responsible by any properly constituted department. Even the chief executive does not know everything the CIA is doing that he will be held responsible for.

President Kennedy knew nothing of the Cuban plan that misfired, though he accepted responsibility, for the disaster. Here, then, is a richly financed organization whose appropriations are hidden in appropriations for other organizations, whose purposes are shrouded, whose employes are set apart and whose policies may even be in conflict with the policies of other departments.

Everything it does and does not do must rest on the shoulders of the individual who administers it — and because of the nature of its work no one can be sure if this arrangement works well or badly. Adm. Rayborn has his

work cut out for him. The CIA has become a prime target for every critic of government.

While it is trying to find out what is going on in the world, Americans are itching to find out what is going on in CIA.